

How to Participate

1. Pass a one-time approved International Bowhunter Education Foundation (I.B.E.F.) bowhunter safety education course.

On-line classes available at: IowaDNR.gov/Hunting/Hunter-Education/Bow-Hunter-Education

2. Pass an annual National Field Archery Association (N.F.A.A.) archery proficiency test using your hunting weapon. This test will consist of shooting 20 arrows -- 10 from 20 yards and 10 from 15 yards -- at a full-sized 3-D deer target. A 24 centimeter (9.5 inch) diameter circle may be substituted for the vital target area. Hunters must score 80% or better in the vital target area to pass.

3. Apply for a special use permit from the agency that manages the public or private property in which you desire to hunt. Contact the individual agency to obtain a map of the special deer management zones within that area and for information on procedures for participating. Failure to obtain permission or to follow all rules specific to each agency may result in loss of hunting privileges. Urban Deer Management Zone Maps are available at IowaDNR.gov

Only Deer Management Zone 48 (DMZ) licenses are valid in urban DMZ designated areas.

Proficiency Test Administrator

Archery Field & Sports
3725 NE 56th Street Altoona, IA
515-265-6500

DMZ License Vendors

Archery Field & Sports **515-265-6500**

Scheels All Sports **515-727-4065**

Bass Pro Shops **515-957-5500**

Sportsman's Warehouse **515-963-3500**

2023 Polk-Dallas Urban Bow Season

This year the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will allow participating entities to use September 16, 2023 through January 21, 2024, for the Polk County Deer Management Zone bow-hunting season. Verify start and end hunting dates with local entity.

A 2024 General Hunting License **must be purchased before January 10, 2024 to be able to hunt through January 21, 2024**

Information

Agency Contacts

<i>City of Johnston</i> David Croll 515-727-7780	<i>Thomas Mitchell Park / Mally's Park / Four Mile Creek Greenbelt</i> Zach Deutmeyer 515-249-1753
<i>City of Pleasant Hill</i> Andrew Minnick 515-868-8177	<i>Browns Woods / Easter Lake</i> Park Ranger 515-249-1543
<i>City of Urbandale</i> Holly Pickett 515-278-3910	<i>Jester Park / Sycamore Trail</i> David Weidt 515-249-3229
<i>Clive Parks & Recreation</i> Jeff Thielen 515-238-0648 Joel Pasco 515-210-7581	<i>Yellow Banks Park</i> Charlie Finch 515-250-1031
<i>West Des Moines Parks & Recreation</i> Marco Alvarez 515-222-3452	<i>Walnut Woods State Park</i> Josh Shipman 515-285-4502
<i>Des Moines Parks & Recreation</i> Paul Strome 515-248-6349	<i>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Saylorville Lake</i> Coty Thompson 515-276-4656 Ext. 6514
<i>City of Polk City</i> Matt Aswegan 515-689-1388	<i>Des Moines Water Works</i> Jessica Barnett 515-283-8702

Iowa Conservation Officers

Dustin Eighmy (Dallas)	515-883-0228
Nate Anderson (Polk)	515-238-4849
Angie Jansen (Polk)	515-238-5006



Hunter's Guide to Polk County Controlled Bowhunts 2023-2024

City of Johnston
City of Pleasant Hill
City of Urbandale
Clive Parks & Recreation
West Des Moines Parks & Recreation
Des Moines Parks & Recreation
Polk County Conservation
Walnut Woods State Park
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
City of Polk City

Hunters planning to hunt in the Polk-Dallas archery deer management zone hunt in 2023

Those hunters that have completed the on-line bow Hunter Safety Course will need to make an appointment at Archery Field and Sports to take the required proficiency test.

A brief presentation will be given to better inform the new urban hunter about the rules and ethics associated with this hunt.

Only antlerless deer may be harvested unless you have been granted a buck tag from a participating agency.

Call or DNR App Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to report all harvested deer.

Report Deer Tag, Confirmation numbers and 3 photos to the Polk County reporting system.

[Apps.PolkCountyIowa.gov/DeerHarvest](https://apps.polkcountylowa.gov/DeerHarvest)

Check-in deer with a verifying official if requested by the agency for the area in which you are hunting. Hunters shall remove 2" off the tip of either ear of all antlerless deer in the presence of the verifying official or provide proof in the three photos sent to the reporting system.

There will be no driving or stalking of deer.

All bows must be cased while traveling to and from the site of the hunting stand.

All shots must be taken from elevated stands. All stands must be portable with no permanent stands erected or screw-in steps used (no nails/lag screws driven into trees). Strap-on steps, a ladder, or a climbing stand are allowed. **Stands shall also visibly display a tag issued by the agency coordinator.**

Controlled Bowhunt Guidelines

All stands must be located at the proper distance from any structure or trail according to the individual agency's ordinance.

Hunters must know their effective shooting range and not shoot beyond that range. Shots shall not exceed 25 yards.

Be sure to identify your target as an antlerless deer (unless hunter has a Buck Incentive Tag for that area), focusing on adult does.

Be aware of what is downrange of your hunting stand and attempt to retrieve all arrows.

Contact the local agency contact person and/or a local Conservation Officer from the Iowa DNR within 12 hours if you are unable to locate a wounded deer.

Use proper field dressing techniques. Don't leave entrails in a noticeable location. Carcass disposal is the responsibility of the hunter.

Report violators of any rules or regulations to the agency contact person or Iowa DNR Conservation Officer.

Remove yourself immediately from any harassment situation with another hunter or citizen, and report the incident to the agency or Iowa DNR Conservation Officer.

Only Deer Management Zone (DMZ) ZONE 48 specific licenses are valid within the urban deer zone.

Have in your possession at all times while bowhunting a valid Iowa Hunting license, wildlife habitat stamp (if required), Bow Hunter Safety Course Certification, Proficiency Test Certification and special use permit from the agency for the area in which you are hunting.

Be aware that seasons as well as rules and regulations for the controlled bowhunt may vary from one area to another. It is the bowhunter's responsibility to know the rules, regulations and boundaries for the area in which they are hunting.

Respect private property.

NOTE: Hunters found in violation of any of these guidelines or rules and regulations may immediately have their special use permit revoked by the issuing agency.

